

Iran: DI Campaign In Support of DI Member Ms. Z. Bayazidi

Contributed by DI Media Committee

Thursday, 21 August 2008

Last Updated Sunday, 16 November 2008

Result of DI campaign / Latest news:

- Soon after the launch of this campaign Ms. Bayazidi's family was able to visit her.
- On August 26, 2008 Ms. Bayazidi was promised to go free after posting a bail bond while a review board completes its work, but nothing was materialized.
- She had to quit her formal hunger strike for health concerns.
- On October 8, 2008 the review board upholds Ms. Bayazidi's sentence. It is still unclear when and to which detention center in exile she will be transferred.
- On November 15, 2008 Ms. Bayazidi was transferred to a detention center in Zanjan, in West Azarbaijan Province.
-

Please
take action and support DI campaign.

DI campaign:

Name: Zaynab Bayazidi

Sex: Female

Age: 26

Authorities: Iranian

Category: Prisoners
of conscience / Arbitrary detentions / Fear of torture or ill-treatments /
Judicial proceedings / Harassment / Human rights defenders

The case:

Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi, born 22/9/1979, a human rights

defender, was reportedly arbitrarily detained by the Iranian intelligence services, the Ettelaat, on July 9, 2008 in the Kurdish city of Mahabad accused of participating in the One Million Signatures Campaign against discriminatory laws and for choosing a Kurdish name "Zilan" for her store. According to Human Rights Advocates in Iran, Ms. Bayazidi had "her case transferred to a court for review on July 2008. However, her review case was postponed for unspecified reasons."

On August 19, 2008 Ms. Bayazidi was tried and sentenced to four years imprisonment in Exile in the city of Zanjan, in West Azarbaijan Province. According to DI members in Iran, Ms. Bayazidi's defence lawyer was not allowed to attend the trial which failed to meet the basic standards for fair trial. Ms. Bayazidi has now begun a hunger strike and submitted a letter objecting the sentence issued in her case.

Ms. Bayazidi has focused on advancing women's rights and has been detained in the past by the Iranian authorities for her activities.

DI Views:

Ms. Bayazidi was aware of the difficult circumstances under which women's rights activists continued their work, however she joined the struggle for equality and was demanding that laws which discriminate against women be revised. She pledged to keep up her activities until those demands were met by authorities.

Ms. Bayazidi has demonstrated her commitment to defend human rights and fundamental freedoms in Iran. She has been arrested due to her participation in the "One Million Signatures Demanding Changes to Discriminatory Laws" campaign, for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression, association and assembly and for defending women's rights.

Iranian authorities are required to create an environment conducive to human rights defenders, to take effective measures to protect, promote, and respect them, and to take action to prevent attacks and harassment against them.

International Law

UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders states:

Article 1: Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels.

Article 5: For the purpose of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, at the national and international levels:

- (a) To meet or assemble peacefully;
- (b) To form, join and participate in non-governmental organizations, associations or groups;
- (c) To communicate with non-governmental or intergovernmental organizations.

Article 12:

1. Everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to participate in peaceful activities against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

2. The State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration.

3. In this connection, everyone is entitled, individually and in association with others, to be protected effectively under national law in reacting against or opposing, through peaceful means, activities and acts, including those by omission, attributable to States that result in violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as acts of violence perpetrated by groups or individuals that affect the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

DI Demands:

Defend

International strongly condemns the detention and prosecution of DI member Ms. Bayazidi and demands her immediate release. Moreover DI urges the Iranian authorities to stop detaining, harassing and prosecuting human rights defenders who are simply exercising rights protected by international conventions ratified by Iran.

Iranian government must drop all charges against activists who have peacefully advocated for human rights. Iran must encourage civil society to promote and facilitate the enjoyment of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, to allow women's rights defenders to use civil means to address their concerns, and to raise public awareness of the equal rights and responsibilities of male and female through campaigns, training, distribution of manuals and brochures etc.

Defend

International:

- Announces its full support and solidarity with Ms. Bayazidi, and calls upon all its members to express their solidarity by writing to the Iranian embassies in their countries;
- Calls upon the Iranian authorities to guarantee the security and physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Bayazidi;
- Believes that the right and freedom of association and of public assembly are fundamentally

;

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned at the news that Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi was detained on July 9, 2008 in the city of Mahabad and has been sentenced to four years imprisonment - punished for participating in a women campaign, and for choosing a Kurdish name for her store. Ms. Bayazidi is member of Defend International, an NGO working to stop human rights violations, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. In the past Ms. Bayazidi had received warnings from the Iranian authorities for her actions in the defence of women rights in Iran.

I appeal to you on humanitarian grounds, and in furtherance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in numerous international human rights and humanitarian treaties and declarations adopted by the United Nations, to drop all the charges against Ms. Bayazidi. In addition I appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Bayazidi as a prisoner of conscience.

I urge you to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Bayazidi. I also urge you to put an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders and to allow them to continue their peaceful activities without any obstacles.

Furthermore I urge you to conform with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1998, especially its Article 1, which states that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels", as well as Article 12.2, which provides that "the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration".

Lastly, I urge you to take concrete steps to bring laws governing the lives of women in line with international human rights standards, and in line with Iran's own international commitments.

Finally I express my solidarity with women's rights defender Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi and would like to express my hope that she will be released very soon.

Thank you for
your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours
respectfully,

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

President

His Excellency Mahmoud Ahmadinejad,

The
Presidency, Palestine Avenue,

Azerbaijan
Intersection,

Tehran,

Islamic Republic of Iran,

Fax: + 98.21.649.5880,

E-mail: dr-ahmadinejad@president.ir This e-mail
address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view
it

Your Excellency,

I am deeply
concerned at the news that Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi was detained on July 9, 2008 in
the city of Mahabad and has been sentenced to four years imprisonment - punished
for participating in a women campaign, and for choosing a Kurdish name for her
store. Ms. Bayazidi is member of Defend
International, an NGO working to stop human rights violations, especially in
the Middle East and North Africa. In the past Ms. Bayazidi had received
warnings from the Iranian authorities for her actions in the defence of women
rights in Iran.

I appeal to you
on humanitarian grounds, and in furtherance of all human rights and fundamental
freedoms enshrined in numerous international human rights and humanitarian
treaties and declarations adopted by the United Nations, to drop all the
charges against Ms. Bayazidi. In addition I appeal for the immediate and

Email: lrjpr@iranjudiciary.com / info@dadgostary-tehran.ir;

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned at the news that Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi was detained on July 9, 2008 in the city of Mahabad and has been sentenced to four years imprisonment - punished for participating in a women campaign, and for choosing a Kurdish name for her store. Ms. Bayazidi is member of Defend International, an NGO working to stop human rights violations, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. In the past Ms. Bayazidi had received warnings from the Iranian authorities for her actions in the defence of women rights in Iran.

I appeal to you on humanitarian grounds, and in furtherance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in numerous international human rights and humanitarian treaties and declarations adopted by the United Nations, to drop all the charges against Ms. Bayazidi. In addition I appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Bayazidi as a prisoner of conscience.

I urge you to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Bayazidi. I also urge you to put an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders and to allow them to continue their peaceful activities without any obstacles.

Furthermore I urge you to conform with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1998, especially its Article 1, which states that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels", as well as Article 12.2, which provides that "the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration".

Lastly, I urge you to take concrete steps to bring laws governing the lives of women in line with international human rights standards, and in line with Iran's own international commitments.

Finally I express my solidarity with women's rights defender Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi and would like to express my hope that she will be released very soon.

Thank you for
your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours
respectfully, @@@@ Minister of Foreign Affairs,

His Excellency Mr. Manuchehr Motaki,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Sheikh Abdolmajid Keshk-e Mesri Av,

Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran,

Fax: + 98.21.390.1999,

Email: matbuat@mfa.gov;

Your Excellency,

I am deeply
concerned at the news that Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi was detained on July 9, 2008 in
the city of Mahabad and has been sentenced to four years imprisonment - punished
for participating in a women campaign, and for choosing a Kurdish name for her
store. Ms. Bayazidi is member of Defend
International, an NGO working to stop human rights violations, especially in
the Middle East and North Africa. In the past Ms. Bayazidi had received
warnings from the Iranian authorities for her actions in the defence of women
rights in Iran.

I appeal to you
on humanitarian grounds, and in furtherance of all human rights and fundamental
freedoms enshrined in numerous international human rights and humanitarian
treaties and declarations adopted by the United Nations, to drop all the
charges against Ms. Bayazidi. In addition I appeal for the immediate and
unconditional release of Ms. Bayazidi as a prisoner of conscience.

I urge you to
guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Ms.
Bayazidi. I also urge you to put an end to all acts of harassment against all
human rights defenders and to allow them to continue their peaceful activities
without any obstacles.

Furthermore I
urge you to conform with the provisions
of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General
Assembly of the United Nations in 1998, especially its Article 1, which states
that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to
promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and
fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels", as well as Article
12.2, which provides that "the State shall take all
necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of

everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration".

Lastly, I urge you to take concrete steps to bring laws governing the lives of women in line with international human rights standards, and in line with Iran's own international commitments.

Finally I express my solidarity with women's rights defender Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi and would like to express my hope that she will be released very soon.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours respectfully, @@@@

Ambassador Mr. Ahani,
Embassy of Iran in Brussels,
Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, 15 A
1050 Bruxelles, Belgium
Fax: + 32 2 762 39 15.
Email: iran-embassy@yahoo.com.

Your Excellency,

I am deeply concerned at the news that Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi was detained on July 9, 2008 in the city of Mahabad and has been sentenced to four years imprisonment - punished for participating in a women campaign, and for choosing a Kurdish name for her store. Ms. Bayazidi is member of Defend International, an NGO working to stop human rights violations, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. In the past Ms. Bayazidi had received warnings from the Iranian authorities for her actions in the defence of women rights in Iran.

I appeal to you on humanitarian grounds, and in furtherance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in numerous international human rights and humanitarian treaties and declarations adopted by the United Nations, to drop all the charges against Ms. Bayazidi. In addition I appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Bayazidi as a prisoner of conscience.

I am deeply concerned at the news that Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi was detained on July 9, 2008 in the city of Mahabad and has been sentenced to four years imprisonment - punished for participating in a women campaign, and for choosing a Kurdish name for her store. Ms. Bayazidi is member of Defend International, an NGO working to stop human rights violations, especially in the Middle East and North Africa. In the past Ms. Bayazidi had received warnings from the Iranian authorities for her actions in the defence of women rights in Iran.

I appeal to you on humanitarian grounds, and in furtherance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in numerous international human rights and humanitarian treaties and declarations adopted by the United Nations, to drop all the charges against Ms. Bayazidi. In addition I appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of Ms. Bayazidi as a prisoner of conscience.

I urge you to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of Ms. Bayazidi. I also urge you to put an end to all acts of harassment against all human rights defenders and to allow them to continue their peaceful activities without any obstacles.

Furthermore I urge you to conform with the provisions of the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1998, especially its Article 1, which states that "everyone has the right, individually and in association with others, to promote and to strive for the protection and realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms at the national and international levels", as well as Article 12.2, which provides that "the State shall take all necessary measures to ensure the protection by the competent authorities of everyone, individually and in association with others, against any violence, threats, retaliation, de facto or de jure adverse discrimination, pressure or any other arbitrary action as a consequence of his or her legitimate exercise of the rights referred to in the present Declaration".

Lastly, I urge you to take concrete steps to bring laws governing the lives of women in line with international human rights standards, and in line with Iran's own international commitments.

Finally I express my solidarity with women's rights defender Ms. Zaynab Bayazidi and would like to express my hope that she will be released very soon.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours
respectfully,